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ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON ITS FORTY-SECOND SESSION

Draft report

Rapporteur: Zuzana VRANOVA (Slovakia)

Addendum

Annex

A. Chairperson's summary

Member States, United Nations organizations and non-governmental organizations made statements during the general debate, held on 2, 3 and 6 March 1998, on agenda item 3 (c), Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women: Implementation of strategic objectives and action in the critical areas of concern.

Delegates reported on actions taken to implement the Beijing Platform for Action, including specific national action plans which had been formulated for that purpose, which in some cases were elaborated on with assistance from organizations of the United Nations system from specific countries. They underlined the importance of strengthening national and international efforts to follow up on the Beijing Conference, emphasizing that the Platform for Action had become an important frame of reference for action at the national level for the advancement of women and the achievement of gender equality. While priorities differed, depending on the situation in a given country, the human rights of women and the elimination of violence against women tended to be common priorities. Countries that had not formulated national plans to follow up on the Platform for Action were urged to do so by the year 2000.

Representatives emphasized the importance of pursuing a policy of gender mainstreaming for equality and the empowerment of women. A number reported on

recently formulated gender policies and on the establishment of national mechanisms for the advancement of women, including integration of gender equality goals into development policies, such as a white paper on women's advancement, integration of a gender perspective into a reconstruction and development plan, and mainstreaming gender in federal development plans. Others noted the establishment of monitoring and oversight mechanisms to oversee activities for the advancement of women, sometimes in collaboration with non-governmental organizations and other actors in civil society.

The need for development assistance from the international community for national efforts to implement the Platform for Action was underscored.

Several representatives emphasized the urgency of stepping up efforts to collect statistical data disaggregated by sex and on gender-specific indicators. Some reported progress in that regard, including the development by one country of a set of economic gender-equality indicators which provided benchmarks of women's and men's economic realities that were often overlooked.

A number of delegates recommended continued close cooperation between the Commission on the Status of Women and the Commission on Human Rights and their secretariats. One representative called for further rationalization of the work of the Commission on the Status of Women to ensure that, in its decisions and recommendations, it addressed only the central issues.

Several representatives expressed views on the proposals for a high-level review in the year 2000 of the implementation of the Nairobi and Beijing strategies. Preference to convene the review as a special session in May or June in the year 2000 was expressed, and the importance of the preparatory process was emphasized. The substantive framework for the review needed to be established as soon as possible and should provide for active contributions from the regional commissions, the specialized agencies, and United Nations funds and programmes. Delegates welcomed the prospect of the African regional conference, to be convened by the Economic Commission for Africa in 1999.

A number of representatives thanked the Division for the Advancement of Women for the preparation of high-quality reports and endorsed the recommendations in the reports of the expert group meetings, convened by the Division in partnership with other institutions, on gender-based persecution, adolescent girls and their rights, and promoting women's enjoyment of their economic and social rights. The previous Bureau of the Commission was commended for its efforts intersessionally to prepare for the Commission and its panel discussions.

B. Human rights of women: Moderator's summary

On 3 March, at its 4th meeting, the Commission held a panel discussion, followed by a dialogue, on the human rights of women, one of the critical areas of concern in the Platform for Action. The panellists were: Rose M. Migiro (United Republic of Tanzania), Head, Department of Civil and Criminal Law, University of Dar-es-Salaam; Cecilia Medina (Chile), Member, Human Rights Committee; Shanthi Dairiam (Malaysia), Director, IWRAW Asia/Pacific; and

Shelagh Day (Canada), Special Advisor on Human Rights, National Association of Women and the Law.

Participants noted that the Beijing Platform for Action reaffirmed that all human rights were universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated, and that the human rights of women and girls were an inalienable, integral and indivisible part of universal human rights. Building on the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action and taking it further, the Platform stressed that enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms by women and girls was a priority for Governments and the United Nations and was essential for the advancement of women. The Platform underlined the importance of gender analysis in addressing the systemic and systematic nature of discrimination against women.

Women's enjoyment of their human rights required a holistic approach to, and a better understanding of, women's human rights, including violations thereof, and Governments had primary responsibility for ensuring women's full enjoyment of their rights. A compartmentalization of rights - for example, of civil and political rights, on the one hand, and economic, social and cultural rights, on the other - was not in keeping with the spirit of fundamental human rights and not conducive to achieving women's equality, advancement and empowerment, since development and human rights complemented each other.

Although progress had been made in many countries in achieving women's de jure equality, women's de facto lack of, or limited enjoyment of, human rights was particularly visible in their economic inequality, which contributed to women's poverty. That constituted a significant obstacle to women's economic empowerment and to development. Women's enjoyment of human rights would strengthen democracy and contribute to more accountable and transparent government.

Representatives cited factors contributing to women's lack of enjoyment of human rights, including the continuing prevalence of discriminatory cultural norms and traditions, national laws, including customary laws, inconsistent with international human rights norms, harmful traditional practices, and women's high levels of illiteracy and consequent marginalization and exclusion. Trends such as globalization, market liberalization and privatization had had an impact on women's enjoyment of their human rights as well, contributing to the changing role of the State, including its decreasing ability to deliver social services.

Some participants noted that indigenous, disabled, refugee and ethnic minority women, elderly women and single mothers were among the most vulnerable. Women in poverty or precarious economic situations were increasingly becoming victims of trafficking and sexual exploitation. Migrant women workers were susceptible to multiple forms of discrimination.

Equal access to rights, equal opportunities for the enjoyment of rights, and equal treatment in that enjoyment remained to be achieved in areas such as health and health care, education, work and employment, and participation in public life. Widespread discrimination against women persisted with regard to ownership of land, property and inheritance rights and access to economic resources such as credit and agricultural extension services, all of which were

among the essential means for women to overcome poverty. Discrimination in marriage, family and nationality laws also persisted. Violence against human rights activists and defenders of women's rights further inhibited progress. Religious fundamentalism had also often led to a denial of rights to women.

There was general agreement that knowledge of rights was an important starting point for improving enjoyment of rights. Restrictive and traditional interpretations and applications of human rights law from a male perspective affected the ways in which women experienced rights or violations thereof. Clarifying the scope and content of human rights from a gender perspective required a new approach on the part, inter alia, of international human rights treaty bodies. It also required that States parties, in their regular reporting to those bodies, include gender-specific information.

Human rights education, research and broad-based awareness-raising of women's human rights were needed, along with efforts to reach illiterate and disadvantaged women. Men also needed to be targeted for increased awareness. The role of non-governmental organizations and civil society was pivotal in the protection and promotion of women's human rights.

At the national level, legislative change was necessary but not sufficient. Constant and critical monitoring of legal provisions was required to determine their impact on women's enjoyment of their rights. International human rights law and jurisprudence provided guidance and incentives for domestic legislative reform. The impact of, and change brought about by, other measures also needed to be monitored over the long term.

Some representatives emphasized that the availability of strong and independent national institutions for promoting the enjoyment of rights, including remedies for violations, was essential for the realization of women's rights. Such institutions should allow diverse groups of women to share their experience and thus lead to an enriched understanding of factors that affected the enjoyment of rights.

At the international level, the establishment of an International Criminal Court was viewed favourably by a number of delegations, and there was support expressed for making gender-based persecution and trafficking in women and girls an integral part of the Court's mandate and for ensuring gender expertise and gender balance throughout the Court. Human rights bodies and mechanisms, including the Commission on Human Rights, also needed to develop greater expertise on women's human rights issues. The Commission's catalytic role in that regard could facilitate such efforts, and women's non-governmental organizations could increase their visibility at and contributions to such mainstream forums, to shape their agendas. An optional protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, with broad standing for individuals and groups, was seen by many representatives as an essential step in strengthening the Convention.

Several speakers noted that a gender perspective needed to be mainstreamed into all human rights activities and machineries at the national and international levels. More and better data collection, more systematic use of data, and more research on women's human rights issues were essential. Women's

human rights needed to be an integral part of the development of economic, trade and fiscal policies. It was stated that economic indicators providing benchmarks of women's and men's economic realities, which were often overlooked, should be developed.

As a matter of principle, a call for action was made to address violations of women's and girls' human rights in particular countries, including Afghanistan. Concern was expressed about the situation of women and children in Algeria and Palestine and for Palestinian women, who remained refugees, unable to return to their homeland. The human rights impact of the embargo on women in Iraq was also mentioned.

C. Violence against women: Moderator's summary

At its 8th meeting, on 6 March, the Commission held a panel discussion on violence against women, one of the critical areas of concern in the Platform for Action. Presentations were made by the panellists: Barbara Prammer (Austria), Federal Minister for Women's Affairs and Consumer Protection; Bonnie Campbell (United States of America), Head of Violence against Women, Office of the Justice Department; Maria Lisbeth Guevara (Venezuela), Coordinadora de la Comisión de Legislación, Consejo Nacional de la Mujer; and Radhika Coomaraswamy (Sri Lanka), Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women.

Participants in the panel discussion and the dialogue recalled that the Beijing Platform for Action had identified violence against women as a priority concern of the international community and had defined it, in line with the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women (General Assembly resolution 48/104), as an act of gender-based violence occurring in public or private life. The Platform emphasized the need to take integrated measures to prevent and eliminate violence against women and to study the causes and consequences of violence and the effectiveness of preventive measures.

Participants emphasized that violence and fear of violence in public and private life remained one of the main concerns of women worldwide. It continued to be an obstacle to the achievement of equality, development and peace, since it had a direct impact on women's economic, social and political participation. Thus, violence against women in all its forms constituted a flagrant violation of women's human rights, which could only be tackled through a multidisciplinary and coordinated approach.

Gender-based violence which resulted in or was likely to result in physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women affected the corporal integrity of women. It was emphasized that the elimination of violence against women was therefore linked to other human rights guarantees, including the right to life, freedom from torture, detention and arbitrary arrest, and the Geneva Conventions.

All forms of gender-based violence against women had a devastating effect on women and their families, in particular their children, and brought with it the risk of a continuous cycle of violence between generations, focused on

groups of women, including women with disabilities, migrant women and women in prostitution.

It was noted that trafficking in women had become an integral feature of transnational organized crime. International cooperation was needed to address the issue of trafficking and to punish those involved in organizing and profiting from it. In several instances, regional cooperation in that regard had started, and national task forces had been established. It was underlined that the problem of trafficking should be dealt with along the lines set out by the Convention on Migrant Workers, which had not yet been ratified by all countries.

Recently, many Governments had given the elimination of violence against women top priority, as reflected in the many national action plans established in the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women. In addition, several countries had elaborated specific action plans to combat gender-based violence, involving non-governmental organizations. At the international level, activities carried out by existing mechanisms, including the Commission on the Status of Women, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, the Commission on Crime Prevention, the Commission on Human Rights and reports of the Special Rapporteur on Violence, were praised.

Mention was made of good practices in the fields of appropriate assistance, management and communication, and prevention, investigation and prosecution, which involved social, educational, medical, judicial, law enforcement, and migration authorities as well as non-governmental organizations. There was consensus that legal action and reform of the criminal and civil justice systems, were critical. It was essential that perpetrators be confronted with the consequences for their behaviour and held accountable. It was noted that some countries had introduced legislation which made it possible to remove the violent offenders from the family home, instead of accommodating victims and children in shelters.

Gender training for law enforcement officers and other personnel, relevant governmental agents and officials was considered important so as to sensitize the criminal justice system regarding violence against women. In some countries, special examination kits were provided to the police for collecting forensic evidence from women. It was emphasized that the full participation of women in the development and execution of laws was required and that there was need for more gender-sensitive women police officers, prosecutors and judges. Training of health and social workers, teachers and counsellors was also necessary in order to ensure that they would be able to identify crimes of violence committed against women and girls. Effective partnership between the police and non-governmental organizations working on violence was considered crucial.

Various steps had been taken to make women aware of the existing problem, to ensure their safety and give assistance. Shelters and emergency help lines, which provided support and protection to victims, existed in many countries. Greater restrictions on access to weapons was being considered in some countries. Witness protection schemes using protective court orders had been introduced and were necessary for protecting, in particular, female victims of

trafficking and rape during war. Multidisciplinary teams made up of medical doctors, social workers, psychologists, health workers, teachers, volunteers and non-governmental organizations were providing legal assistance and social services. The valuable assistance given by non-governmental organizations in providing legal and psychological counselling was acknowledged.

To raise public awareness and to break the silence and taboos surrounding violence, public awareness campaigns on the impact of violence were considered essential. Many community education campaigns were being carried out, aimed at changing community attitudes towards violence, introducing "zero tolerance" for violent behaviour, and promoting non-violent methods of conflict resolution. Teacher training and the development of curriculum material to address gender-based violence in schools was mentioned. Media campaigns could encourage women to file complaints instead of hiding the problem. At the same time, the portrayal of violence in the media perpetuated violence and continued to have negative effects, especially on children.

Many obstacles remained, and the gap between de jure and de facto implementation persisted, since most women seemed not to seek help from crisis services or the police, because of ignorance, fear or shame. Many women were not aware of existing laws or their rights and frequently had no access to the judicial system, especially if they were poor, illiterate or migrants. It was deplored that the real extent of violence against women remained hidden as well as unreported. Random surveys suggested that the extent of the problem was much greater than estimated. Consequently, it was difficult to design adequate policies and offer sufficient services to victims. The lack or inadequacy of data available made it difficult to assess the nature, severity and effects of violence against women and to better understand its causes. The academic community needed to conduct more research on the causes and consequences of violence against women and on the economic costs that accrued to countries because of such violence. It was regretted that there were so few impact studies on steps taken to combat violence against women.

With regard to the rehabilitation of perpetrators, programmes had been carried out in a number of countries, with varied success. Most programmes focused on the role of men, emphasizing positive new role models for men and new types of male/female relationships in the family. It was important to change patriarchal values and to create a non-violent culture. However, in view of the scarcity of funds, assistance to victims of violence had to be the priority and needed to be seen as a moral obligation.

Participants also recalled the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women and stressed the need for concrete follow up, including studies on the impact of measures to eliminate violence against women and to assist the victims, and it was proposed that mechanisms were needed to monitor follow up on violence against women, including good practices.

D. The girl child: Moderator's summary

At its 5th meeting, on 4 March, the Commission held a panel discussion on the girl child, one of the critical areas of concern in the Platform for Action,

and heard presentations by the following panellists: Lina Laigo (Philippines), Secretary, Department of Social Welfare and Development and Chairperson, Council for the Welfare of Children; Sadig Rasheed (Sudan), Director, Programme Division, UNICEF; Paloma Bonfil Sanchez (Mexico), Secretaria Ejecutiva, Grupo Interdisciplinario sobre Mujer, Trabajo y Pobreza (GIMTRAP); and Margaret Vogt (Nigeria), Senior Associate, International Peace Academy.

Following the panel discussion, 16 government delegations participated in a dialogue. Two girls, sponsored by the non-governmental organization Committee for UNICEF/Working Group on Girls, and representatives of a non-governmental organization caucus also spoke.

Speakers recalled that the Beijing Platform for Action recognized that women in many countries faced discrimination from the earliest stages of life. They also recognized that discrimination and neglect in childhood could initiate a lifelong downward spiral of deprivation and exclusion. The Platform had called upon Governments, the United Nations system and civil society to take urgent measures to eliminate all forms of discrimination against the girl child, including negative traditional and cultural attitudes and practices and discrimination with respect to education, skills development and training, health and nutrition, employment and family life. It recommended that Governments enact and enforce appropriate legislation and take actions that would ensure equal rights for girls and their full participation in development.

Since the Fourth World Conference on Women, a variety of policy measures and programmes specifically targeting the girl child had been introduced by countries, reflecting actions also proposed at recent United Nations conferences and summits and in the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and various ILO conventions and standards. Public awareness campaigns had been organized in various regions to sensitize people to the specific needs and concerns of girls. National legislation had been reviewed and modified to protect girls. Stereotypes in teaching materials had been removed in some countries, and teachers were being given gender training. Affirmative action had been used to increase female entrants to colleges and universities.

Representatives stressed that the empowerment of the girl child was critical not only for eliminating gender-based discrimination but for personal growth. Human rights instruments, especially the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, obliged States Parties to make efforts to protect the rights of the girl child and to eliminate discrimination. The two Conventions were viewed by some delegates as interrelated, and measures had been taken to implement them in a coordinated and complementary way. However, in order to be more effective, it was proposed that the two Conventions be widely disseminated in local languages and incorporated into national laws.

Education was referred to as the most important tool for girls' empowerment, and in that connection, many participants expressed concern at the high rate of dropouts among girls, compared to boys. A support system needed to be in place to help girls complete their education and to prevent the sexual

harassment of girls in schools. The paucity of role models for girls in textbooks was noted.

Reference was made to prevailing negative cultural and traditional attitudes and practices that often stood in the way of equal treatment of girls. Some of those attitudes and practices, combined with traditional role models maintained by families, discouraged girls' career development, their participation in social and political life, and their access to recreational activities and sports. A preference for sons continued in many countries, leading to discrimination against girls, often even before birth, and to such practices as female infanticide and prenatal sex selection.

The situation of girls living in poor economic conditions was mentioned by a number of speakers. Those girls were often the most marginalized. They were often forced to take up low-paid work or become prostitutes. They often became domestic workers, were paid very little, and were subjected to abuse and exploitation.

In rural areas, unpaid domestic work was frequently expected from girls, preventing them from going to school or developing skills suited to income-earning activities. Moreover, their contribution to household work was often undervalued. Since globalization contributed to the further impoverishment of rural areas in many developing countries, out-migration by adults had increased and had led to an increase in girls' domestic labour and responsibilities.

In traditional cultures, families generally maintained the traditional roles of males and females. Since the empowerment of girls started in the family, families needed to recognize the rights and specific needs of the girl child beyond the traditional cultural framework.

The particular needs of adolescent girls resulting from the transitional and developmental nature of their physical and emotional states were acknowledged. Adolescent girls and boys needed to be given adequate information on sexual and reproductive health, and it was necessary to help counsellors who dealt with adolescents to be gender-sensitive. It was also important for national Governments and the international community to recognize that the health needs of girls were generally different from those of boys. Traditional practices that were harmful to girls' health, such as female genital mutilation, should be eliminated. Adolescent girls should be empowered and supported by their families and communities to take control of their physical well-being and educational attainment.

Reference was made to girls affected by armed conflict and to refugee girls. Where the family system was no longer functioning, many children were left without parents or primary caregivers. Concerns were expressed that girls in such circumstances were particularly vulnerable to rape and sexual violence, for example, in refugee camps or when fleeing their home countries.

Personnel involved in peacekeeping and humanitarian activities should be sensitized to the specific needs of girl children and should not exploit them. Attention was drawn to young girls as soldiers, a phenomenon that seemed to be on the increase and on which more data and research were required.

Much concern was expressed on trafficking and the sexual abuse of girls, including the growing sex industry, and on child pornography, including the use of the Internet in that regard. Rehabilitation of the victims of sexual abuse and trafficking needed to be organized by trained personnel. Mechanisms at the national and international levels to prosecute and punish the perpetrators were also urgently needed, whether their offences were committed in their own or in a foreign country.

E. Women and armed conflict: Moderator's summary

On 4 March, at its 6th meeting, the Commission held a panel discussion on women and armed conflict, followed by a dialogue. The panellists were: Helga Hernes (Norway), Special Advisor in the Royal Ministry of Foreign Affairs on peacekeeping and preventive diplomacy; Rafiga Azimova (Azerbaijan), Head of the Research Centre of the Council of Women; Bernard Muna (Cameroon), International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda; and Hina Jilani (Pakistan), Advocate, Supreme Court of Pakistan.

Representatives noted that the Beijing Platform for Action emphasized that peace was inextricably linked to equality between women and men, but that aggression, foreign occupation, ethnic conflict and other types of conflict were an ongoing reality, affecting women and men in nearly every region. They recalled that, building on the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, the Platform had stressed that violations of the human rights of women in times of armed conflict were violations of fundamental principles of international human rights and humanitarian law and emphasized that the implementation of cooperative approaches to peace and security were urgently needed. Noting the consequences of armed conflict for women, which included internal displacement and refugee flight, the speakers stressed the crucial role of women in the maintenance and promotion of peace and security and the preservation of social order in times of armed conflict. They also reiterated the Platform's emphasis on the importance of all forms of education to foster a culture of peace, tolerance and respect for diversity and stressed the critical role of an active and visible policy of mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes to address armed conflict or other conflicts.

It was noted that contemporary armed conflict affected civilians disproportionately. Most conflicts were fought within, rather than between, States and were no longer fought exclusively by professional soldiers. Non-state actors, including paramilitaries and vigilantes, increasingly threatened the security of civilians, particularly women and children. Reduced tolerance for ethnic, religious and cultural diversity and decreased respect for the right to self-determination brought about instability. The easy availability of small arms, including land-mines, to non-state actors had heightened the possibilities of civilian insecurity and risk, especially for women and children, both during conflict and post-conflict, in, inter alia, refugee camps and camps for the internally displaced.

Representatives noted that, although entire communities were affected by and suffered the consequences of armed conflict, women and girls were particularly affected because of their status in society and their sex. They

suffered many forms of abuse during armed conflict, but were particularly vulnerable to sexual abuse, rape, sexual mutilation, sexually humiliating treatment, forcible impregnation, sexual slavery and forced marriages. Sexual violence was commonly used as an instrument of war. Sexual violence brought with it the risk of HIV/AIDS and pregnancy. Women have been forced to bear and raise the children of their aggressors or forced to raise rejected orphans. Women have also experienced the trauma of being shamed in the eyes of their communities, of losing relatives and friends in times of armed conflict, and of having to take responsibility for the care of surviving family members.

Representatives recalled that armed conflicts, civil strife and foreign occupation had resulted in internal displacement and refugee flows, with women and children comprising the majority of those who were internally displaced or refugees. Displaced and refugee women faced the risk of abuse during flight, in refugee camps and in countries of ultimate refuge, from the military, paramilitaries, bandit gangs and male refugees.

Camps for the internally displaced and refugees had sometimes become the site for continuing conflict and, in the absence of structures to preserve law and order, had served to shield the activities of warring groups. Displaced and refugee women in camps faced other difficulties, including lack of physical security and privacy, difficulties relating to health, and lack of suitable occupation and income-generating opportunities. Humanitarian workers were sometimes insensitive to the needs of women in camps, and that circumstance underlined the importance of gender balance among such workers and mainstreaming a gender perspective into their activities. Representatives noted the importance of training all security workers in international human rights and humanitarian principles and the participation of women in all areas, as civilian and military peacekeepers, peace-builders and as special representatives of the Secretary-General. National armed forces should be well acquainted with international human rights and humanitarian principles as well as gender perspectives. The increased participation of women at all levels of national armed forces should be a specific goal.

Breaches of international humanitarian and human rights law affecting women required a particularly effective response and should not be marginalized during post-war reconstruction. Speakers emphasized the importance of justice at the international and national levels to provide the foundation for national reconciliation. Delegates stressed that the statute of the proposed International Criminal Court should provide for the prosecution of violations of the human rights of women during conflict and should specifically address sexual violations. National legal systems should also be reviewed in order to ensure that they provided justice for women who had been affected by armed conflict. The importance of procedural and evidentiary safeguards and of strengthened support for victims was also emphasized by representatives. Representatives encouraged support for trust funds for women victims of armed conflict.

Many representatives emphasized the potential of women as agents of preventive diplomacy, peacekeeping and peace-building. Noting that women should not be viewed primarily as the victims of armed conflict, delegates noted that the participation of women in peacekeeping missions had positive results and that their participation should be secured in all relevant areas, particularly

in modern multifunctional peacekeeping operations. Innovative strategies to encourage women's participation in peace processes, refugee camps and their reconstruction, and post-conflict resolution was crucial, and concrete steps were necessary to ensure that women were appointed as special representatives of the Secretary-General. Close connections with grass-root and local initiatives with regard to peace-building were also essential.

Representatives stressed that sustained and energetic efforts to avert the occurrence of conflict were required, along with short-term and long-term strategies to develop a culture of peace. Formal and informal education should incorporate values emphasizing the morality of peace, a tolerance of diversity, gender sensitivity, and respect for human rights. Governments and civil society, including the media, should develop programmes involving women relating to peace education and conflict prevention and resolution, and girls and women should be encouraged to speak as women, rather than as representatives of other interests.